WANT AD

Our supply of issues 2 and 5 of *News and Notes* is entirely depleted. Libraries are writing in for them and we cannot fill their requests. If any members have saved theirs and would like to let us have them, we would appreciate it.

COVERED BRIDGE MAPS ARE AVAILABLE

With the tourist season beginning, we have found the maps of Vermont's covered bridges extremely popular with our visitors. And you may like one too. The autumn 1949 issue of *Vermont Life* carried it in reduced size. It is an unusually detailed map of several of the state's outstanding covered bridges and is suitable for framing. May be had for only $1.00.

VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY STATE HOUSE MONTPELIER

Leon S. Gay, President
Arthur W. Peach, Acting Director
Mrs. Madelyn Davidson, Editor
Telephone: Montpelier 1500, Extension 39.

VHS *News and Notes*
VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Montpelier, Vermont

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A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER ISSUED BY THE VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 1 JULY, 1950 NUMBER 11

JAMES TAYLOR COLLECTION (1872-1949)

"A footpath in the wilderness", the *Long Trail,* was built by members of the Green Mountain Club, section by section, during the years 1910-1929. The Club was sparked by that great Vermonter, James P. Taylor, then principal of Vermont Academy, gradually increased its membership until it passed the 1500 mark, and achieved financial stability. In twenty years, the Long Trail has become one of the state's outstanding recreational attractions.

The illustration is of a marker on Route 9, a familiar sign up and down the state, wherever this famous footpath crosses highways.

His work for the Long Trail was only one of the examples of Mr. Taylor's leadership in state causes. He worked for the establishment of the Extension Service, now so valuable to our farm folk. He led the campaign for modern highways and sponsored the first gasoline taxes in the country. He urged the publicizing of our government, and we are all familiar with the attractive town reports now issued each year. He fathered the development of Vermont's tourist business and the open advertising of Vermont's virtues, and worked for state planning and local zoning. Jim Taylor *was* the State Chamber, and his civic leadership was brilliant over the many years. And last but not least, his efforts through-

out New England on the stream pollution problem, all too common in Vermont, brought about the New England pollution pact and the cooperation between New York state and Vermont on the lake pollution problem.

Through the thoughtfulness and as a result of the recommendations of Mr. Charles P. Smith, Jr., president of the State Chamber of Commerce, the entire Taylor collection has been turned over to your Society for preservation and use by research workers. It contains invaluable manuscripts, diaries, personal records and, to be added as a gift of Henry Taylor and Mrs. Florence Taylor Morris, is a complete file of newspaper clippings. Members and staff of the Society are most grateful for the opportunity to house this collection.

ANNUAL MEETING AND DINNER

On Saturday, July 1st, our one hundred and twelfth meeting was held. The Museum, completely renovated and rearranged, was opened to members. The public also took advantage, for our count of attendance that first day was 696, and we had not publicized the opening to any extent! Our formal opening comes later.

Committee meetings were held in the new offices during the morning and in the afternoon the curators' and general meetings were held. A complete report will appear in the July issue of the *Quarterly,* so we will not repeat it here. And watch for the new list of curators. We can expect big things from that distinguished group of leaders. Mr. Leon S. Gay of Cavendish was re-elected president, and the Society may well be pleased with that action by the hard-working nominating committee. Other officers are:

Elbert S. Brigham and John Clement, vice-presidents; Clara E. Follette, secretary and Luman B. Howe, treasurer.

The largest dinner meeting ever held by the Society totaled 136 in attendance. It was informal. The broiled chickn dinner was excellent, and the program with twice Pulitizer-winning biographer Allan Nevins of Columbia University as principal speaker was most entertaining. "New" members, that is those who have joined during the last six months, were in the majority—all very interested and eager to support the work of the Society. One loyal member, Fred A. Emery of Washington, D. C., traveled 1,200 miles for the day's events.

Professor Nevins' talk on "History This Side of the Horizon" pointed out that we of the present day know more of ever-changing world affairs than those taking part. We watch the fascinating changes through our radio and newspapers and know more of the developments than those at 10 Downing or in the Kremlin. And those developments are far more distinctive than, say, the Fall of Rome or Napoleon at Waterloo. We are observers of significant living history and our humble day by day events register great impacts on the masses. We must understand that these events, as history, are not remote or distant from our ordinary lives.

Our former director, Earle W. Newton, now director of Sturbridge Village, Massachusetts, reviewed the program made by the Society in recent years. It was under his leadership that the Society went beyond the customary services of its library and museum to carry the story of Vermont *to* the people and the method used was to use existing media or develop them. A general informational program resulted in the establishment and issuance of the quarterly *Vermont Life,* the use of radio for its weekly dramatization with cast and music of little known events of Vermont history, its accompanying newspaper column *This is Vermont,* and a weekly historical cartoon in Vermont newspapers. The Society's work, in particular Mr. Newton's, with the Legislature resulted in the establishment of the Historic Sites commission and the erection of 75 attractive plaques throughout the state, the reorganization of the Public Records Commission and the establishment of the War History Commission. Special tribute was paid by Mr. Newton to Mrs. Mary G. Nye, "one of the state's grand ladies".

The dinner meeting closed after the Edmunds prize winning essays were read by Miss Kathryn M. Dimick (2nd prize) and Miss Barbara Rosen (3rd). Miss Marian Mills of Wilmington, who won first prize, was not able to be present.

NOW IT CAN BE TOLD

Our membership drive is continuing. We reached the goal of 1,000 and were able to report at the annual meeting a total of 1,047 members. At this writing, our count is 1,058. We are still relying on our faithful friends to send in recommendations; and, as we have explained, there is mailed immediately an attractive certificate of invitation with the current issue of *News and Notes* and the reprint of the *Vermont Life* article, *Making History Live,* which tells the story of the Vermont Historical Society.

Just a postal card will do. Mail in your suggestions today, won't you?

AT LAST THE REAL STORY OF THE HOMESTEAD INAUGURAL

The only newspaper man present at the world-famous ceremony in the little homestead in Plymouth, August 3, 1923, at which Calvin Coolidge took the Presidential Oath of Office was Joe H. Fountain, now, we believe, head of the publicity department of a great railway system. In an attractive brochure, edited by Don Tobin of the North Country Press, Mr. Fountain tells the complete story of the ceremony and the events before and after it. He has written the account in vivid but at the same time authentic terms; and the story will stand probably as the final word on an event unique in American history. The seven illustrations in pen and ink by Stephen J. Voorhies add decidedly to the value and attractiveness of the brochure. Don Tobin has written an adequate foreword and postword. We will be glad to send copies to our members and friends through our Vermont Bookshelf service. Fifty-three cents (includes postage) and your address will bring a prompt copy. Might be a good idea to order two or more, for the story is going to be an immortal one of continuous inspiration to Americans young and old. *Homestead Inaugural* by Joe H. Fountain. 28 pp. North Country Press. St. Albans, Vt. 1950. A. W. P.

EDITORIAL, BURLINGTON FREE PRESS, JULY 6

"In an interesting address to 150 members of the Vermont Historical Society of Montpelier, Saturday evening, Dr. Nevins of Columbia University stressed the importance of everyday life, and the significance of the observations of every man on the current scene.

"Not merely the historian, or the trained commentator has opportunity to see and record history; historians of a later day will envy us who live in an age of more significance to the world than the great eras of the past. They will search for letters and newspapers, for comments traditional or recorded of everyday citizens, for recollections of aged persons, to recreate the life of today. Dr. Nevins

spoke of the project now operating at Columbia to collect and record such material.

". . . . . The Vermont Historical Society has a double field of activity. It is in half a dozen ways familiarizing Vermonters with the life of Vermont in the past. In the last ten years it has made more of such information popular with Vermonters and those interested in Vermont than in decades before. Seeing the life of Vermont in historical perspective, also, leads to considering the life of the State today — its progress and its losses—for unfortunately advances always are paid for with some losses. Records of the present are as much a part of history as records of the past.

"The increased interest in Vermont history argues well for the spirit of the State; and the effort of the Vermont Historical Society to increase its present membership deserves the support of thousands of Vermonters. The Society was fortunate in the services of Mr. Newton; it is equally so in obtaining those of Professor Peach to succeed him."

The September issue will appear in a new format with typography by Vrest Orton of Weston, Vermont

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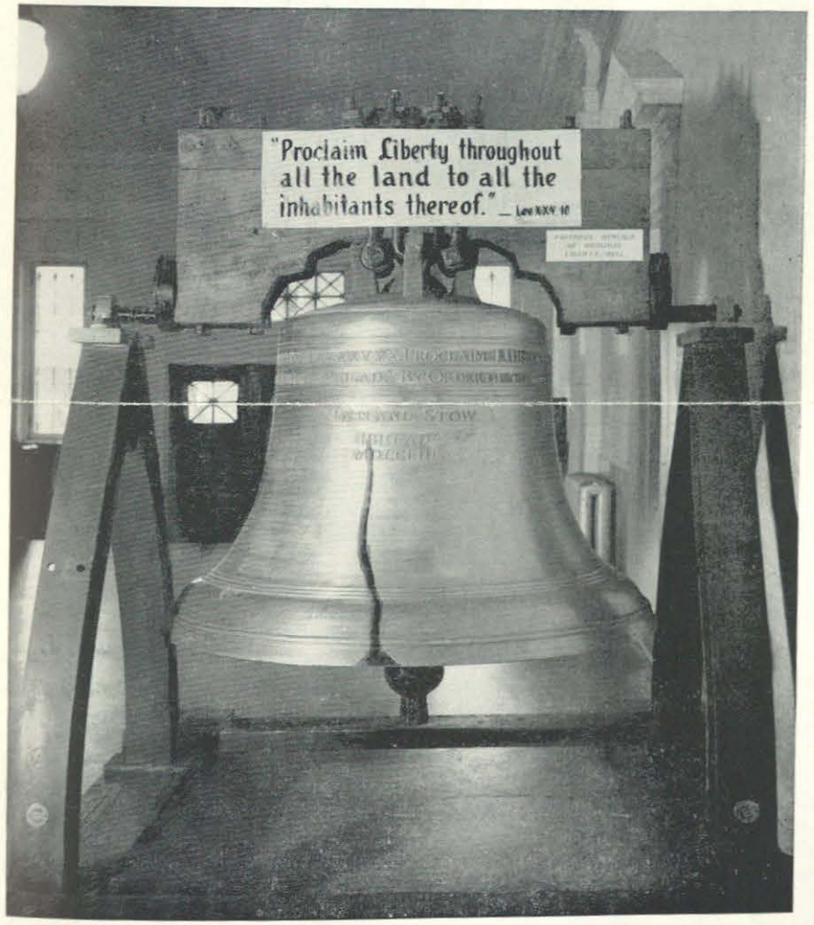

VERMONT'S LIBERTY BELL

This bell by direction of Governor Arthur is now in the care and possession of the Vermont Historical Society. It is placed in the entrance lobby of the State Library Building in Montpelier.